

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae." . . . VIRG.

VOL. I.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1819.

NUM 13.

AGRICULTURE.

From the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society.

Notices for a Young Farmer,

Particularly on Worn Lands, &c. &c.

WITH NOTES BY THE EDITOR OF THE FARMER.

[Continued from No. 12, page 90.]

Fire on Soils ; its uses, and observations thereon.

XVIII. The effects of FIRE on soils, are well known in foreign countries to be salutary ; and here, proofs are not deficient. Various modes in which it has been applied, are to be found in European books. When carried to excess, it is, like all good things abused, no doubt injurious. Nor would any one wish to destroy the inestimable vegetable matter of a sod, capable of being completely decayed, so as not to vegetate ; for this would be unnecessarily wasting the means of restoring fertility, by the co-operation (with this inert vegetable matter) of manures, or materials for the food of plants in the earth or in the atmosphere. But where bulbs, or other pests are otherwise indestructible ; or the substratum be clay proper for burning into highly fertilizing manure, there can be no reasonable objection to the application of fire. *Denshiring*, or *burnbaking*, is described in agricultural books, wherein its benefits are developed, and the improper use of it pointed out. *Burnt clay* has been long known to be fertilizing, and so are the ashes of *heat and turf*. Even burning brush and straw on fields, is proved to be almost incredibly fertilizing and productive. Burning the foul cover of wild grass and weeds, before ploughing for Indian Corn, even in the spring, has, in frequent instances, destroyed the grub or the eggs of its parent. In *what manner* heat operates on soils, it is not essential, nor is the inquiry whether the effect be produced by the ashes or the mere application of fire. The facts are well ascertained, and *that* is enough for all practical purposes. Some soils may be less benefited than others ; and with some, burning may entirely disagree. Whatever may be the theory of, or prejudices against this operation, it behoves us at least to try, if even on a small scale, a practice which has the approbation of eminent and successful practical and scientific agriculturists in Europe. And in this, as in every other operation, a farmer should know and calculate on the nature of his own soil, and thereby judge of the expediency and propriety of any practice.

Ditching and Draining. Warping. Irrigation.
Stagnant Water injurious if not carefully attended to.

XIX. Our awkward mode of DITCHING and DRAINING our swamps or wet grounds, is not only inconvenient and unsightly, but occupies space unnecessarily. UNDERDRAINING, and thereby preserving a level, dry cultivatable and productive surface, is every way eligible, where the site will admit of it. It would be well for some spirited agriculturist to set an example of improvement in this regard. Lessons in European books, for underdraining, are in plenty ; and there is one in the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Society.

In declining grounds, a straight open ditch in the direction of the declination, is injurious and dangerous. Violent floods in such ditches, always produce a ravine or gully. The ditch should be oblique and calculated to resist them, whilst it still affords a sufficient passage to floods. Nature establishes precedents ; her streams being generally meandering and flexuous. *Under, i. e. covered drains*, are not liable to the ravages of floods ; and may be straight, without being exposed to the dangers to which open ditches are subject. Our rich alluvial tide-water meadows, are not included in these remarks ; the drains and ditches of these, for the most part, must necessarily be wide and open. Modes of *surface draining*, and instruments for the purpose are pointed out and described in European books, and are well worthy our attention.

The fertile bottoms on rivers and less streams, frequently prove the fecundating effects of overflows occurring from floods, which leave their rich deposits on the recession of the waters. In Europe they practice what is there called *WARPING* ; to produce, artificially, the like result. By means of banks, dams, and flood-gates, where there is fall enough to drain off the tides admitted, they introduce the water of a river, (and the more turbid the better,) and suffer it to remain stagnant until it has not only destroyed worthless vegetation, but by the settling of the rich mould which has been held in solution, a great store of manure is deposited for profitable culture and renovating the fertility of the soil. After their first operations are completed, they suffer the banks, sluices, and flood gates to remain, and admit the water occasionally, as it may be necessary for either irrigation or manure. In our embanked meadows, something of the kind is accidentally or purposely done. But it would be well, where it is practicable, to introduce this improvement among us. Many modes of irrigation are practised in other quarters of our globe ; but *here* water is not applied to agricultural purposes, in any degree equal to the uses whereof it is capable. In our southern countries, it is only applied to particular crops. *Birkbeck's* account of irrigation, in the south of France, is well worthy of attention. It will be seen, that its uses are not confined to grass, but are extended to every species of crop, and so had been, there through ages : Channels for the conveyance, distribution, and delivery

of water from one farm to another, have remained for a time beyond the memory of man ; and are held as inviolable as the boundaries of property. But the use of water should be carefully studied. Stagnant water, if suffered to remain long, injures vegetation, and even its deposits of rich manure have bad effects on some grain, in the first instance, though finally they fertilize wonderfully. *Wheat* is the most injured by stagnant water, and is often so scalded and deteriorated, as to become abortive, and produce only *cheat*. In winter the irrigation of grass grounds, is held to be most advantageous ; and the water is more nutritive by its deposits. In hot weather it scalds, and should be turned off, so as to be only occasionally used.

Discretion, as to the numbers and species of live stock, recommended, and judicious selection of breeds.

XX. Always rather *understock* your farm, with domestic animals. An extra number of *Horses*, is the most oppressive. No farmer should be without a due proportion of *working oxen*. The *neck yoke* is the simplest but is not deemed the best mode of enabling them to work. That *fitted on the forehead* and attached to the horns or collars, and other appropriate *gears*, are, by many, preferred.

Have no more *Swine* than you can feed well ; (always wrung,) and kept within your own enclosures, if your farm be in a populous neighbourhood. Running hogs are fertile sources of bitter enmities, and petty controversies. A rooting hog wastes its flesh and requires more food to restore it, than is gained by the scanty prey after which it labours. Nothing is better for store-swine, than red clover eaten off the growing plant. But differently from horned cattle, green clover cut and given to them, will keep them in good plight. They waste as much as they eat, and do not relish it in this way.

In a well managed *butter dairy*, skimmed and butter milk will afford means of raising a store-pig to each cow besides a due allowance for some sows, to produce pigs for store-hogs and roasters for the market. Few farmers, however, do so much, because they will not raise esculent roots, as substitutes for grain, for winter keep of store-hogs. A milk dairy furnished food for sows and pigs, from the offal and unsaleable milk.

Let all your stock of animals be of the best breeds : but study useful qualities, more than shewy figures. Yet well proportioned and slightly animals are generally the most valuable, both as it regards usefulness and keep. There are exceptions, in dairy cows particularly. *Large* horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, are not the most profitable. Those of the middle sizes are, on every account, to be preferred. Ostentation (and as it respects the *horse* particularly, a less innocent motive,) more than real benefit, too often excites

those who value themselves in exhibiting very beautiful horses, very large and very fat, (and of course very expensive,) cattle, sheep, and swine. This may be, and is a laudable pride in those whose circumstances admit of indulging it; and breeding well formed and well endowed animals, is highly worthy of encouragement and merited praise. But hardihood and easiness of keep, should be prominent qualities, especially in the stock of a farmer. For such qualities, and many other good properties, the *Tunis sheep* will be found worthy of great attention.

A principal of adaptation of animals, as well as plants, to soil, climate, and situation, will be found in nature, with rare exceptions. The various species of *sheep* prove this principle. Dry countries are best, for all, as they require little drink, and wet soils produce diseases. Yet fenny countries, and coarse bites (especially if salt,) are favourable to some kinds. The Lincolnshire and long woolled, will thrive in such situations, and with such feed, where fine fleeced sheep would perish or degenerate. In our zeal for fine woollen sheep, we overlooked this principle, and believed that any pastures would suit them. The *Cheviot* sheep delight in mountainous ranges, often covered with snow; and the *Shetland* race in short bites, salt air, and barren browsing; yet the fleeces of the latter are finer, though more scanty, than those of the *Merino*. Instances of other animals might be adduced. Old pastures, dry and elevated, are best for sheep, and preferable to artificial grasses. Of such grasses, Mr. Coke, of Norfolk, in *England*, finds the *cocksfoot*, (our orchard grass,) constantly fed, the most eligible. He *inoculates* a clear fallow field with sods of old lay, three inches square, and the same distance apart, to renovate old pasture, so valuable is it deemed. His fields are well cleaned, by his row-culture, which he extensively and profitably practices. New countries produce no proper pastures generally, for fine fleeced sheep, though there may be selected spots. The sheep for such countries, should be those of the heavy fleeced and long woolled breeds. *Prairie* countries, it would seem, are peculiarly calculated for them.

Household Manufactures are of the first importance; and *practical farmers* should breed heavy fleeced and worsted or long woolled sheep, for common purposes, in such manufactures, as well as for marketable carcasses, even in old settlements and districts of country. But for any flock a better mode of providing their keep through the winter and spring months, must be introduced. Succulent food, consisting of *carrots*, *potatoes*, Swedish, or other *turnips*, *Mangle Wurtzel*, &c. must be provided. Sheep out of condition are most worthless stock. Wool nor mutton can no more be produced from a starved flock, than can a profitable crop be gathered from a sterile and ill cultivated field. No question is intended to be discussed on the subjects of large manufacturing establishments, or fine woolled sheep. Enough, both of experience and discussion, has already been exhibited, to enable every one to form his own opinion. Under prudent and intelligent direction, both of these great subjects of public prosperity will settle down to their proper standard, and where that is exactly to be found, only time and *experience*, faithful and unerring monitors, can, with any precision deter-

mine. See Vol. III. Philadelphia Agricultural Memoirs, pages 362, et seq.

Our breeds of horned cattle particularly, are too little attended to, and dairy cows, especially, are with difficulty obtained. True, the demand for them is much increased. But this should operate as a stimulant to multiplying their numbers and attention to their breed, which requires different qualities, in many respects, from those fit for the knife. For this reason, a variety, in breeding cattle for the specific purposes to which they are devoted, should be carefully studied. *Mules* are highly valuable; but are not so generally used as they should be. It would be well to spread this long lived, hardy, and laborious animal, of the best kinds, through our country. Breeding in and in, i. e. from the same family, is a subject of diversity of opinion. No doubt a selection from a large flock or herd, of the finest forms and qualities, however near the blood, will generally ensure a good race. But when the parent-stock is small in number, and kept too long on the same farm, the experience of many respectable breeders is decisively favourable to changes and crossing: exceptions there are to this position; and so there are to every general observation and practice. It is generally agreed, that the male stamps the character of blood and breed on the progeny.

Against keeping an unreasonable number of sheep, there have been, recently, ample warning. Such excesses, generally, (but for the time, injuriously for individuals,) regulate themselves. In *England*, extravagant speculations in sheep, were checked, (as far as legislative interference could accomplish,) by laws. In the time of *Henry VII.* an act of Parliament recites, that some flock-holders had 24,000 sheep; and enacts, that no person shall hold more than 200! Religious communities and characters held the largest flocks, and thus depopulated the country, and forced the labouring classes into mendicity and crimes for want of employment. They drew on themselves their dissolution, and restraints on their sordid propensities, by thus affording to this arbitrary monarch, some plausible pretexts and many justifiable motives for his fatal hostility towards them. See an interesting paper on the *poor*, and *Poor Laws*; and *Bath Papers*, 14th vol. pages, 245, et seq.

Such causes have in no small degree, contributed to keep the plough idle in *Spain*, and other countries, where according to the quaint phraseology of an old poet, "sheepe have eaten men many a yere;" in place of "men eating sheepe." Instances however, of excessive abuse, are no arguments against breeding these highly valuable animals, in numbers adequate to our prudent demands for them.

Great flocks may be kept, in parts of our country in which they would not interfere with other branches of husbandry. Locality is therefore of primary importance. Lines of states are well for jurisdictional purposes. But local prejudices are injurious on the great national scale. Mutual wants plentifully supplied, will bind us in bands of common interests; and we shall the sooner become one people. If, in old districts, cattle or sheep cannot be so advantageously raised or fattened as in newly settled countries, let us apply our efforts where they are more beneficial. What liberal mind was not gratified by

a recent influx of prime beef cattle, from the western country; some of them preferred, by our victuallers, to those of our vicinity, after having been driven more than 400 miles? The sea board markets will thus be reduced to their proper level, for home consumption and external commerce.

A farmer should confine his objects to such as properly fall within his system of economy; so that one member of his general plan shall not interfere with, but be assistant to another. There are sheep for farmers, and sheep for flock masters. Speculation should not be indulged; being adverse to habits of industry, and tending to bring on reverses, which a husbandman is ill calculated to bear. Extravagant speculations, in any pursuit, defeat their own objects, by lessening the value of an article increased beyond the demand; and, in such case a kind of re-action reduces its price below its real estimation. A farmer should sedulously avoid propensities which foster ideas that profits are to be gained by *lucky hits* in the lottery of chances, in preference to the slow but sure rewards of industry, economy, and prudent management.

(To be continued.)

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

A View of the Agricultural Condition of the lower Counties of Maryland.

No. 1.

Nothing can present to the traveller's eye a more dreary and miserable aspect, than the condition of most parts of the lower counties on the western shore of Maryland. If he has ever passed beyond the Delaware line, and from thence eastward, he is forcibly struck with the gloominess of the prospect which presents itself in this section of the state. Dreary and uncultivated wastes, a barren and exhausted soil, half clothed negroes, lean and hungry stock, a puny race of horses, a scarcity of provender, houses falling to decay, and fences wind shaken and dilapidating, for the most part salute him on his journey.

It would but ill become a citizen to triumph in the wretchedness of his parent state, but it best becomes him to point out errors which lead to, and which, if not timely repaired, will eventuate in total ruin.

The cultivation of tobacco as a sole and entire crop, has brought this scene to pass. The origin of its culture, the colonial condition of Maryland, and the policy of England to encourage its growth, are subjects more suited to the pen of the historian, or the writer on plantation trade, than to the compass of an essay. Yet a few remarks are necessary to the complete understanding of the present condition of this part of the state.

English colonization began in the reign of James I., was conducted under the immediate administration of the crown, engaged in under the sanction of royal charters, and the settlement and trade ordered and regulated by the king and privy council, without any participation of the parliament or colonial legislature. The great object of the plantation regulations was, to encourage colonial productions, in preference to like articles from other countries, and to require of the colonies that all their productions should be sent to England in English shipping.*

Tobacco being an indigenous plant, thrived well in Virginia, and notwithstanding the capricious dislike which James I. conceived against it, met with encouragement from him and his privy council. Although at first it was prohibited by proclamation, yet the customs which used to be received from it, failing, the king in 1623 compromised with the Vir-

* Reeves' Law on Shipping.

ginia company, and consented to receive a duty of 9d. per pound in lieu of all charges, and the company were to have the sole importation upon the express condition that the whole production of the colony should be brought to England.† In 1624, the importation of tobacco into England or Ireland was prohibited by proclamation except from Virginia or the Somer Islands, and except in ships belonging to English subjects. James also prohibited the planting of it in England or Ireland, or in the Isles to the same belonging.‡ In the following reign, in 1639, Sir William Berkeley was directed to enforce these regulations §

Maryland was planted by Cecilius Lord Baltimore, in the reign of Charles II., and like Virginia engaged in the cultivation of tobacco. In this reign it was enacted by 12 Car. 2. ch. 34, that no one should plant tobacco in England, Wales, Guernsey, Jersey, Berwick or Ireland, on pain of forfeiting it or 40s. for every rod of ground so planted. This penalty was increased to 10l. by 15 Car. 2 ch. 7. sec. 18, and a still stronger act was passed 22 and 23 Car. 2. ch. 26. sec. 2.

This great article of produce being thus encouraged by the British crown, privy council and parliament, it is no wonder that its cultivation was so generally adopted in the lower counties of Maryland. The numerous rivers in the state afforded a great facility of transporting this bulky article to market, a new country and virgin soil afforded the means of producing it of the finest colour, with little trouble and small expense, and each cultivator being formerly his own shipper, he united in himself, the profit of the merchant with the gains of the planter. But those circumstances are greatly altered. True it is, Maryland has still her numerous rivers, but no longer possesses a new country and virgin soil, and the planter must now be contented with the sales of his crop to the speculator, too often owed before his beds are sown, or promised to the wily purchaser for the payment of debts before the inspector has seen a stave of a hoghead.

It has been the fortune of Maryland, to make tobacco a sole and exclusive crop, for though Indian corn, wheat, &c. are put in the ground, those crops are left to struggle for themselves, it being a favourite maxim of the planter, "If I can sell tobacco, I can buy corn." It would be a great gain to the state, if the planter could be induced to cultivate tobacco with a proper rotation of crops. By this means his lands would be enriched, and the quantum of tobacco diminished, in order to secure a proper succession. True, he could not boast on his inspection day, of the number of his hogheads, nor could he at the county court vaunt of the aggregate sum he had received, but he could show a healthy, fat and vigorous stock, the object of the victualler's search; grateful negroes, well fed and well clothed; his houses, his grounds, his fences, in short every thing around him in a progressive state of improvement; and he would have by the frequent sales of his frequent crops, what the planter has not; money, at all times, to pay his bills.

The labour bestowed upon tobacco, is greater than any other crop, and its profit is not proportionate to that labour. Its enormous consumption of labour, and its diminutive returns of manure, would startle even an old planter, to see an exact account of the labour devoured by an acre of tobacco, and the preparation of the crop for market. Even supposing that crop to amount to the extraordinary quantity of one thousand pounds, he would find it seldom, if ever, producing a profit on a fair calculation. He would be astonished to discover how often he had passed over the land, and the tobacco through his hands, in fallowing, hilling, cutting off hills, planting, replantings, topplings, suckerings, weedings, cuttings, picking up, removing out of the ground by hand, hanging, striking, stripping, stemming and prizing, and that the same labour, devoted to almost any other employment, would have produced a bet-

ter return by ordinary success, than tobacco does by the extravagant crop I have supposed.

"Though its profit is small or nothing, its quality of starving every thing exceeds that of any other crop. It starves the earth by producing but little litter, and it starves its cultivators, by producing nothing to eat. Whatever plenty or splendour it may bestow on its owner, the soil it feeds on must necessarily become cadaverous, and its cultivators squalid. Nor can it possibly diffuse over the face of the earth or the faces of its inhabitants, the exuberance which flows from fertilization, nor the happiness which flows from plenty."

One of the greatest evils resulting from the culture of tobacco, is thoughtless extravagance it produces among its planters. Being raised as the only article for sale, the whole of the crop is commonly sent to market at the same time, and being converted into cash, by the magnitude of the sum, induces its possessor to fancy himself rich, and to act with that indiscretion which large sums produce, until at the expiration of a short time, he finds himself moneyless, and compelled to ask for credit upon the faith of the coming crop.

Tobacco requires attention to be bestowed upon it, at those periods of the year when other crops require it; for this plant requires constant and unremitted attention, and is therefore, perpetually interfering with all other crops, by which means, the grain and grass crops are neglected, and often left to Providence to rear them, with scarcely any aid from the cultivator.

One of the greatest curses which afflicts those counties, is the negro population, whose interest is in direct opposition to that of the master, and which constantly seeks to cheat him of all it can bestow, the daily labour of the slave. This population drives to the west, the white industrious poor man, who, unable to find employment, is compelled to go abroad in search of it to happier regions, where industry prevails, and slavery does not rob the cultivator of half his gains. The numerous thefts which are committed on most plantations, are so great, that nothing is made for market. The pigs are stolen before they are half grown, the hogs, the poultry, in fact every thing upon the plantation is the constant subject of depredation by the slave, and in the spring or open weather in the winter, when ploughing should be done, the horses are so lean for want of provender, that they cannot half perform their duty. And to what is all this owing? To the culture of tobacco as an entire crop; for as neither slave nor horse can eat tobacco, and as the master is most generally unwilling or unable to buy, so the slave, obeying the impulse of hunger, steals, and the unhappy horse pines to a skeleton.

It seems to me, while I am engaged in writing this short essay, that I could fill volumes upon the subject. The demoralizing consequences of raising any crop, which is neither fit for food or raiment, the miserable policy which can adopt such crop for culture, leading to a spare, scattered and wretched population, a population composed of whites, too proud, and of slaves too indolent to labour, press so strongly upon me, that I can with difficulty bear the narrow confines of an essayist.

From a thin white population, scattered over an extensive surface, follows many evils. The lands are held in too large quantities to be cultivated with profit and ease, and cannot be manured, but at great expense and labour. Good makers of agricultural implements, are few in numbers, which occasions great difficulty in procuring proper implements of husbandry, upon the most modern and approved construction, and having them repaired when procured. Where the population is thin, good examples in farming seldom occur, improvement travels with slowness, experiments are few, and the judgment and experience of more populous districts, not pursued for want of hands interested in the soil or crop, and possessing sufficient energy and industry.

To all this is to be added, the difficulty of cutting the crops in harvest time, for a want of a sufficiency of labourers. It is then evident that the planter has many serious difficulties to encounter before he can become a farmer.

And how is all this to be remedied? By two causes, which will produce corresponding effects.—First, by not raising tobacco, as an entire crop, and, secondly, by increasing the white population of the lower counties. When a person travelling by land, to the lower section of the western shore, leaves Baltimore as the beginning of his route, he is astonished to find in its immediate vicinity, as well as at a more remote distance, large wastes of uncultivated land, and at first he is astonished to think from what regions that large compact and populous city, draws its supplies of animal and vegetable food.

I have often thought it practicable to turn the tide of emigration, which flows without an ebb from the eastern to the western states. It requires no argument to prove, that if potatoes and other commodities can be raised in New England, and sold in the Baltimore market, with profit to the cultivator, that the same farmer possessing his yankee habits of industry and frugality, and unencumbered by the drones of negro slavery, settled upon the banks of the Chesapeake, might in a few years amass a considerable fortune. Would it not be easy, for the patriotic, to persuade the European emigrant to arrest his footsteps journeying to western wilds and impenetrable forests, and employ his skill and industry in reclaiming lands, waste for want of population.

I contend, that in this scheme Baltimore is deeply interested. While she is projecting canals and turnpike roads, to bring into her vortex, distant internal commerce, she is neglecting the means which nature has placed within a day's voyage of her numerous wharves, and expanded basin. Other rival cities are springing up, the bosom of the Mississippi and her tributary rivers, are waiting along the manufactured productions of Europe, and nothing can supply this loss of trade to Maryland, but by inviting and inducing a manufacturing and farming interest to remain in the state, where there is ample room, but little skill, and too often, still less industry.

AGRICOLA.

ON THE MURRAIN.

A DISEASE INCIDENT TO HORNED CATTLE.

No. IV.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

The true epidemic Murrain, then, seems to be a low, or typhoid fever, and probably peculiar to black cattle, although it had invaded all the brute animals of Egypt, in a special instance, that being expressly a deviation from the ordinary course of nature—a curse. At all events, it cannot be correctly identified with any human epidemic; for not only are the general diseases of the different orders of animals distinct, but they vary little in the same species, even under different climates and conditions. Natural diseases like the animals themselves, have always existed, and will probably endure in the shape they were created. The transmutation of the vaccine and variolous disease, is as singular and solitary an exception to the one, as the generation of the hybrid mule, is to the other, and serve rather to elucidate than to question the unvaried order of nature, in all her discriminations. Nor are the diseases of the lower animals, either numerous, complicated, or necessarily very fatal, excepting always the ravages of some direful epidemics. By habits of domestication, they become more frequent, multiplied and aggravated—thus the horse, naturally, perhaps the most perfect, as well as the most noble brute animal, may be pampered almost to the gout, and become as sensitive to a humid atmosphere, as the tenderest bantling:—

"Nurs'd in soft lap, and fann'd with fragrant
"breath."

† Chalmer's Political Anna's 52. ‡ Ib. 67. § Ib. 132

* Arator 267, 268.

Yet their artificial, as well as their natural diseases, are uniform and susceptible as the human, of exact definition, classification and treatment. The desideratum is, who are capable and willing to afford it? I have shown that object has not been accomplished, and never can, except through the instrumentality of physicians. Will or can they do it? This is a question, in my opinion, well worthy to partake of the very creditable zeal so lately manifested on agricultural subjects. The veterinary schools of France and England, have greatly advanced the knowledge and treatment of brute diseases, but deriving incidental aid only from professional men, they are compelled to proceed without method, and not possessing the elements of any system, as medical institutions, they are comparatively inefficient. Time, with well concerted efforts, would remove such defects, and would attach credit to the American character, to do it. The physician will not stop behind others, in support of measures well adapted to that purpose. But their service would not be so simple and certain as may be supposed. The laws and structure, in all animal life, are essentially similar, but the capacities of the different functions and their relation to each other, are so dissimilar, as to leave little resemblance in their diseases. The physician being an utter stranger to their symptoms and character, must study and connect them, *de novo*, beginning in a chaos. His only advantage, is, that his preparatory knowledge of the laws, and structure of animal life, and of the action of remedies, enables him to do so. The diseases of domestication, are with little exception, those only common to man, and other animals, and in which practical medical knowledge can be of any advantage. While, therefore, attention and research would be necessary, on the part of the physician, the credit, satisfaction and benefit resulting therefrom, would afford considerable remuneration; besides, there cannot be a doubt that, strictly speaking, such investigations belong to medical study, with a view to human diseases, since we all know what comparative anatomy and *a fortiori*, what comparative diseases can contribute to the medical art. Other incitements however, must be afforded, and the necessary facilities provided to secure efficiency to this undertaking.

For the present, I will close this accidental discussion, by merely suggesting that a well selected *Medical Board*, attached to each agricultural society of the state, with honorary members, &c. might readily become a medium through which the objects would be accomplished. Should this intimation be honoured by the notice of those societies, I may hereafter propose a plan adapted to it, should there appear to be any difficulty on that head. I should not however, be inclined to value the form, so much as the *materials* of which such an association should be framed, and the funds necessary to defray its expenses:—a department of every subject on which it is more difficult to excite the necessary zeal and liberality, than on any other. A physician's time is his farm and his fortune, and should not therefore, be too deeply drawn on gratuitously. To a certain extent medical attendance should be paid for, and a premium of honour or emolument, or both, always afforded for reported cases, histories and dissections.

TITYRE.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

HEDGING.

No. 1.

The subject of live fencing or hedging with thorn, is one of importance to the interest of Agriculture, and will some day gain a possession of some of the columns of the *American Farmer*. I shall endeavour to cast what light my experiments on that head for a number of years will furnish.

The advantage of *safe enclosures* to secure the product of the farmer's toil, is scarcely necessary to mention, as all must know, that to plant or sow without fencing, would (in this country) be a useless labour; yet from too much inattention to this neces-

sary part, how frequently does vexation follow from loss of crop.

The next inquiry is, what kind of *materials* are the best adapted to the purpose of fencing, and upon which we can place reliance. Whether *living* or *dead materials*, the former, increasing in strength by age, the latter, diminishing in the same ratio, by the hand of time.

The comparative expense, of labour and materials, will be given hereafter, (on a given portion of each kind) as it stands in the neighbourhood of the writer; where timber is advancing in value every year, coming more into requisition for building, as well as for fuel and a variety of purposes besides the dividing and subdividing of farms, as the population increases; and it is now well understood, in some of our farming districts, that smaller fields than formerly, give a better product, especially in the grass farm, by frequent shifting the stock. *Stone* is an excellent material for fencing by erecting them into walls, in such situations as they abound, and must be removed out of the way, for the better cultivation of the land. They cannot be better disposed of, than to raise them into fencing, a practice many years in use in the neighbourhood of the writer, and with good effect, both for defence and duration, and should not be neglected, whilst they are in the way of farming, though too heavy to transport any considerable distance for that purpose.

Thorn is the best substitute to answer the most extensive purpose on various soils and climates, so far as the observations of the writer have extended. There are various kinds within our vicinity. The most predominant as a native, is the cockspur kind, generally known by the name of the Newcastle thorn, I suppose from the abundance, both native and cultivated in the neighbourhood of the town of that name in Delaware state, where it is seen to thrive remarkably well. It has a thick green serrated or indented leaf, the upper side remarkable for its glossy smooth green, rather paler on the under side, the thorn or pike, strong and sharp, from one and a half to three inches in length. There are a number of other kinds, natives also of the Delaware, but of inferior quality, yet they will any of them make a hedge with care and attention.

There is another kind, termed in H. Marshall's catalogue of American trees, the Virginia parsley-leaved thorn. This shrub abounds, as I have been informed by a Botanist, (Bartram) through all the southern states; upon my own observation, I never found a native stock, growing eastward of the Potomac river, though abounding plentifully on the western shores, from whence they were first obtained and introduced into Delaware, about 1807: since that time, they have been propagated through a part of Delaware and Pennsylvania states, with good success, making an excellent hedge, where rightly managed. The Virginia thorn, as it is now named, is more approaching in appearance in the leaf, to the European thorn, that was introduced here by some of the early settlers, but far superior in point of defence. The foreign thorn does not thrive so well, neither is it so defensive, the prickle being very short, scarcely fit to get the name of a thorn, compared with the cockspur or the Virginia kinds, and very little progress was ever made in this country with it. Some scattered remaining old stocks are to be seen in early settled neighbourhoods; one instance of a late planted hedge I have under my notice, and have observed its progress six or seven years, but have no reason to give it a preference to our native kinds, therefore shall leave it without recommendation, and return to the Virginia, or as Marshall terms it, the parsley-leaved thorn, which is easily propagated from the seed, and will vegetate the first year after they are produced; the Newcastle or cockspur, will not before the second, and a great portion of them not until the third year; which circumstance is very discouraging to the cultivator, his ground becomes possessed by some other product that prevents the young thorn from thriving, and in attempting to keep it clean, he runs the risk of destroying what he would wish to preserve, not

knowing when to look for the appearance of the desired plant, above ground, therefore often loses the labour already bestowed.

The Virginia shrub is not only easily propagated from the seed, (more of which shall be noted hereafter) but thrifty if taken care of when young, and has an abundant armour of prickles, about an inch long, and as sharp as needles, (comparatively speaking.) A certain uniformity in its growth, gives a uniformity to the hedge, that is not to be found in any other kind; more manageable in the training process, than any other brought into use.

(To be continued.)

Interesting Extracts.

(CONTINUED.)

No. 2.—*Athenian Agriculture*.—Abbe Barthelémy's *Travels of Anacharsis*.

[Concluded.]

Let us suppose that you intend one day to exercise the noble profession which I follow. I should first endeavour to prove to you that all your care and all your time should be devoted to the earth, and that the more you shall do for her, the more she will do for you; for she is only so beneficent because she is just.

To this principle I should add, sometimes rules confirmed by the experience of ages, and sometimes doubts which you might resolve by your own observations, or the knowledge of others. I should say to you, for example: Choose a favourable situation. Study the nature of soils, and the manures proper to each production. Inform yourself when it may be necessary to mingle earths of different kinds; and when the earth should be mixed with the dung, or the dung with the grain.

If the subject in question were the cultivation of wheat in particular, I should add: Redouble your labours. Do not commit to the earth the grain you have last reaped, but that of the preceding year.—Sow sooner or later, according to the temperature of the season; thicker or thinner, according as the earth is lighter or heavier; but always sow equally. Does your wheat run up too high, be careful to cut it, or turn in sheep to browse on it; for the former of these methods is sometimes dangerous; the grain becomes long and thin. Have you much straw only cut down half of it, and burn what remains on the ground, it will serve for manure.—Lay up your wheat in a dry place; and that it may keep a long time, do not spread it, but heap it up, and even water it.

Euthymenes made several other remarks on the cultivation of wheat, and enlarged still more on that of the vine. I shall give you his observations in his own words:

We must be particularly attentive to the nature of the young plant, the labours it requires, and the means of rendering it fruitful. A number of practices relative to these various objects, and frequently contradictory to each other, have been introduced in the different districts of Greece.

Almost every where, vines are supported with props. They are only manured once in four years, or not so often; more frequent manurings would at last burn them up.

The attention of the vine-dresser is principally directed to the pruning: the object of which is to render the vine stronger, more fruitful, and longer lived.

In a ground newly cleared, a young plant should be pruned in the third year, but later in one that has been long cultivated. With respect to the season, some maintain that this operation ought to be early performed, because inconveniences may result from pruning either in winter or in spring, since in the former case the wound cannot close, and the eyes, or buds are in danger of being dried up by the cold; and, in the latter, the sap is exhausted, and flows over the buds near the wound.

Others make distinctions according to the nature of the soil. They say that the vines in a thin and dry ground should be pruned in autumn; those in a cold and moist one, in spring; and those in a soil neither too dry nor too moist, in winter. By these means, the former would preserve the sap necessary to them, the second lose that which is superfluous, and all would produce an excellent wine. One proof, say they, that in moist grounds pruning should be deferred till the spring, and a part of the sap suffered to flow off, is the custom we have of sowing in vineyards barley and beans, which absorb the humidity of the soil, and prevent the vine from exhausting itself in useless branches.

The vine-dressers are divided on another question. Whether vines should be pruned long or short? Some say this is to be determined by the nature of the plant on the soil; and others, that it depends on the quantity of sap in the branches: if that is abundant, several very short shoots should be left, that the vine may produce more grapes; but if there is but little of it, fewer shoots should be left, and the vine should be pruned longer.

The vines which bear many branches, and few grapes, require that the shoots at the top should be pruned long; and those lower down short, in order that the vine may be strengthened at the root, and at the same time the branches at the top produce much fruit.

It is advantageous to prune young vines short, that they may grow stronger; for vines which are pruned long produce indeed more fruit, but sooner die.

I shall not speak of the different labours which the vine requires, nor of several practices, the utility of which is acknowledged. We frequently see the vine dressers strew a light dust over the grapes to defend them from the heat of the sun, and for other reasons, which it would be too tedious to enumerate. At other times, we see them pluck off some of the leaves, that the clusters, being more exposed to the sun, may ripen sooner.

Would you wish to restore youth to a vine nearly dead with old age, remove the earth on one side, and pick and clean the roots, applying to them different kinds of manure, and covering them with the earth. It will produce scarcely any fruit the first year, but, after three or four years, it will have regained its former vigour. If you afterwards perceive it begin to languish, again repeat the same operation on the other side; and these precautions taken every ten years, will in some measure render your vine immortal.

To obtain grapes without stones, you must take a vine shoot, and cut it lightly in the part which is to be set in the ground; take out the pith from this part, unite the two sides separated by the incision, cover them with wet paper, and plant it in the earth. The experiment will succeed better, if the lower part, thus prepared, be put in a sea-onion before it is planted. Other methods are known to produce the same effect.

Would you wish to have on the same vine, both black and white grapes, or clusters, the berries of which shall be some black and others white, take a shoot of each kind, bruise them in their upper part, so that they may closely unite and incorporate, if I may so speak, tie them together, and plant them.

We afterwards requested from Euthymenes some instructions concerning the different kinds of plants of the kitchen garden and fruit trees. The former, said he, come up sooner when we make use of seed which is two or three years old. There are some which it is advantageous to water with salt water. Cucumbers (a) are sweeter when their seeds have been steeped in milk for two days.—They thrive better in grounds naturally a little moist, than in gar-

dens where they are frequently watered. Would you have them early, sow them first in pots, and water them with warm water; but I must tell you that they will have less flavour than if they had been watered with cold water. To render them large, care is taken as soon as they begin to be formed, to cover them with a pot or vessel, or to introduce them into a kind of tube. To preserve them a long time, they should be covered, and kept hung up in a well.

Trees should be planted in autumn or rather in the spring. The trench should be dug at least a year before they are planted. It is usual to leave it a long time open, as if it were to be conducted by the air. The dimensions of the trench are varied according as the soil is dry or moist. It is usual to allow to it two feet and a half in depth, and two feet in breadth.

I only relate, said Euthymenes, practices that are known and are familiar to all cultivated nations;—and which, replied I immediately, do not sufficiently excite their admiration. What time, what reflection must not have been necessary to observe and gain a knowledge of the wants, the varieties, and resources of Nature,—to render her docile, and diversify or correct her productions! I was surprised at my arrival in Greece, to see trees manured and pruned; but how great was my admiration to find that the secret had been discovered to diminish the kernel of some fruits, to increase the size of the pulp of other fruits and especially pomegranates, had been made to grow larger on the tree, by covering them with an earthen vessel; and that trees were compelled to bear fruits of different kinds, and be loaded with productions foreign to their nature!

This latter prodigy, said Euthymenes, is effected by grafting, by which the roughness and sourness of the fruits of wild trees is corrected. Almost all garden trees undergo this operation, which is ordinarily performed on trees of the same species; as, for example, a fig is grafted on another fig-tree, an apple on a pear tree, &c.

Figs ripen sooner when they have been punctured by gnats that come from the fruit of a wild fig-tree, purposely planted near. Yet those which ripen naturally are preferred, and the dealers who sell them in the market never fail to mention this difference.

It is said, that pomegranates will be sweeter when the tree is watered with cold water, and pigs dung laid round the roots; that almonds have more flavour when nails are driven into the trunk of the tree, and the sap suffered to flow out for some time; and that olive trees do not thrive when they are more than three hundred stadia from the sea.* It is likewise said that certain trees have a sensible influence on other trees; that olive trees delight in the neighbourhood of wild pomegranates, and garden pomegranates in that of myrtles.† It is added, in fine, that the difference of sex must be admitted in trees and plants, an opinion which was at first founded on the analogy that was imagined to exist between animals and the other productions of nature, and afterwards confirmed by the observation that palm-trees do not bear fruit unless the females are fecundated by the down or dust contained in the flower of the male. This species of phenomenon must first have been observed in Egypt and the neighbouring countries: for in Greece the palm-trees raised for the ornaments of gardens bear no dates, or at least never bring them to perfect maturity.

In general the fruits of Attica have a sweetness not found in those of the neighbouring countries, which advantage they owe less to the industry of the cultivator

sions not being sufficiently clear, I shall content myself with referring my readers to the modern critics, as Jul. Scalig. in Theophr. Hist. Plant. lib. 7. cap. 3. p. 741; Bod. a Stapel. in cap. 4. ejusd. libr. p. 782; and several others.

* Eleven leagues and one third.

† There is in the nature of the Walnut and the Cedar, on the contrary, something so hostile to the Thorn, that hedges often decline and perish in the neighbourhood of these trees.—Edit. Am. Farmer.

than the influence of the climate. We as yet are ignorant how far this influence will correct the sourness of those beautiful fruits which hang on that citron-tree lately brought from Persia to Athens.

Euthymenes spoke to us concerning rustic labours with pleasure, and with transport on the delights of a country life.

One evening, when we were seated at a table, before his house, under some superb palm trees, that arched over our heads, he said to us: When I walk in my fields, all things smile and seem embellished with new ornaments in mine eyes. These harvests, trees, and plants, exist only for me, or rather for the necessities whose wants I relieve. Sometimes I create to myself illusions to lighten my enjoyments, and the earth then seems to accompany her benefactions with a species of delicacy, announcing her fruits by flowers, as among men benefits ought to be accompanied by the graces.

An emulation without rivalry forms the bond of the union between me and my neighbours. They frequently come and take their places around this table, which was never yet encircled but by my friends. Confidence and frankness reign at these repasts; we communicate to each other our discoveries; for, unlike to other artists who have secrets, each is only emulous to inform himself and instruct his friends.

Interesting.

The following "REMARKABLE CONFESSION OF A CONDEMNED MALEFACTOR," has been translated from the German, and published in the *New Monthly Magazine* for the present year. It was originally published in the form of a letter, from the clergyman who attended the Malefactor in prison, and to whom the confession was made.—The introductory matter is omitted as not necessary to an understanding of the confession, and as calculated to extend the article to too great a length. It may, however, be proper to remark, that the malefactor at the time of his execution, was but two and twenty years of age.

From the *London New Monthly Magazine*.

"My father was a respectable tradesman in this town and I, his only son, was educated with all possible care, under his immediate inspection, to succeed him in his business. From my earliest years, my disposition was silent and reserved, and the perusal of instructive and entertaining books, the dearest, and almost sole employment of my leisure hours. I avoided, from choice, the noisy pleasures of the world; and my parents cherished me, on account of this exclusive attachment for my home, with redoubled affection. In my seventeenth year I lost my mother. My father continued single for a considerable time longer, in content and happiness; he was actually approaching his sixtieth birth day, when he had the weakness to fall in love (if, indeed, the passion could be so termed) with the youthful daughter of one of our neighbours, whose only riches consisted in her extraordinary beauty and unsullied reputation. He formally demanded her hand of her parents: and the latter, who had looked upon him as a thriving, wealthy tradesman, compelled their child, partly by threats, and partly by persuasion, to pledge her faith to him, rather with her lips than with her heart. The wedding day was already fixed, when my father fell dangerously ill: he, however, soon partially recovered, and although his physician, and some still remaining weakness counselled to delay, he paid but little attention to either, summoned up all his strength, and celebrated his marriage as well and as gaily as his situation permitted. But on that very day, whilst seated amid his friends, enjoying the delights of the festive board, he suddenly became so faint and ill, that he was obliged to be carried from the table to his bed, from which he never again rose. He lingered in this state a whole year. And it is certain, incontestably certain, that this ill-starred marriage never was consummated.

"Meanwhile the maiden whom he had espoused, assumed the name of his wife, and in reward for the resignation and cheerfulness with which she supported the toils, and fulfilled the duties of an affectionate and careful nurse, he bequeathed to her by his will his

(a) On Melons.—From some expressions to be found in the ancient writers, there seems reason to suppose that, at the time of which I here speak, the Greeks were acquainted with melons, and considered them as a species of cucumber; but these expres-

whole property; and left me, his only son—against whom he had never had cause to utter a single complaint—with the exception of my scanty leg-portion, penniless! How much reason soever I might now appear to have, to hate, or at least, to shun a person who had deprived me, almost in an unlawful manner, of a considerable fortune—the contrary feeling prevailed over my resentment. She was, as I have already observed, young, beautiful, of an irreproachable character: mild and obliging towards every body, and from the first moment of our acquaintance, peculiarly engaging in her behaviour to me. Little then aware of the reason, I yet sought her company at every leisure hour—delighted in her conversation—often asked her opinion on the concerns of the house, and soon observed with secret pleasure, that she was on her part anxious to obtain mine, even on trifles, and followed my advice with the most scrupulous attention. Thus passed on some months, and I thought not on the danger of our growing attachment: but when she daily became dearer to me, when no place without her any longer had charms for me, and sleeping or waking, her idea was constantly present to my thoughts: then, too late, I observed the flame that glowed within my breast. Terrified at the precipice on which I stood, and resolved as much as possible to avoid one who never could be mine. I should immediately have quitted my father's house, had I not been withheld by the dread of the comments which my fellow citizens would make on my conduct, by whom it might have been deemed the effect of anger against my parent for so unkindly disinheriting me—by the present situation of affairs in our business, to the prosperity of which my presence was absolutely indispensable—and lastly, by the evidently approaching dissolution of my still beloved father.

However, I maintained, during some time, my resolution of shunning her society; but no sooner was she aware of this, than, on the first opportunity, following me to a sequestered part of the house, she implored me with tears in her eyes, to tell her the reason of such an alteration in my conduct, for which she had never intentionally given me any cause, I stammered out something in the form of an excuse, but all that I could say, was, by her, gently, yet clearly refuted; and at last, as my agitation increased, and some words escaped me, which but too well explained my real feelings, she could no longer restrain the impulse of her affection, but throwing herself into my arms, avowed her attachment to me. This event put an end to all constraint on my part, and no longer endeavouring to disguise my love, I still forced myself to try to impress on her mind the impossibility of her ever being mine, and the absolute necessity of an eternal separation from her; and after a heart-rending effort, burst from her in agony and despair. But she clung to my arm, asserted that she was but the legal, nominal wife of my father; set before me the certainty of the speedy removal of that obstacle, and insinuated the delightful hope, that a mere name would be the insuperable barrier to the accomplishment of our mutual wishes.

Her urgent entreaties, and the confidence with which she adverted to the latter alluring argument, finally overpowered by weak opposition. But by that holy name, before whose judgment seat I am about so soon to appear, I swear to you, reverend sir, that nothing passed between us, with which my conscience at that awful hour, can reproach me. A tender embrace, and reciprocal assurances of attachment and constancy, were all that I wished for, attempted to obtain, or she permitted.

At length, my father expired: and some weeks afterwards, she renewed her entreaties and persuasions for me to procure legal advice for our guidance. I dared not deceive myself; but in proportion as my love for her augmented, my once confident hope of ever possessing her had declined. At length, trembling for her sake, and desperately desirous of putting an end to the distracting uncertainty in which I existed, I hastened to the nearest advocate; and unreservedly confided to him every circumstance of our situation. He inspired me with hope, instantly dispatching a petition in my name to the Holy Ecclesiastical Court for a dispensation: but, either from ignorance or carelessness, (for I would not willingly impute worse motives to my countryman) he touched so lightly on the important

point of the unconsummated, yet legally concluded marriage, that a double motive, and a dark, artful design were, with too great seeming justice, afterwards imputed to us on that account.

Imagine to yourself our transports of joy, when at the end of three weeks, we received the most ample permission to marry; and from a state of tormenting anxiety, we are at once elevated to the calm confidence of bliss in our approaching union. Can you doubt the purity of our attachment, when I affirm to you, by the Omnipresent Deity, that, notwithstanding this permission, notwithstanding she was my very shadow, and watched every look of mine to obey it: though I loved her with indescribable ardour, and thought of nothing but how I might best promote her happiness, and certainly might with a word, have induced a woman who loved me far better than herself, to dare every thing for my sake, I repeat that more than four weeks went by, without any thing more having passed between us, which we could not, without hesitation, or the fear of blame, have confessed to the severest inquisitor of our conduct.

We no longer kept our love or our intentions a secret from the world; but made open preparations for our approaching wedding, and by the singularity of the event, excited the curiosity and attention of our neighbours, already envious of our felicity. The magistracy interfered; commanded us to postpone our marriage, and made a report of the whole affair to the Ecclesiastical Court. God alone knows the reason which induced them to resolve upon a new proceeding, which annulled their former decision; but sure I am, that the distraction of the unfortunate traveller, who feels himself reclining down the edge of an unfathomable precipice, cannot be compared to mine, when I was summoned to appear before them, and heard the overwhelming sentence which prohibited our union. And then her tears, her grief, her misery—to describe our feelings, would be far beyond my powers; I cannot—will not—do it—it would only give unnecessary pain to your friendly heart, and shake that resolution which will ere long be so necessary for my own support.

Here the unhappy man paused for some minutes: tears no longer to be restrained, burst from his eyes; and mine, I acknowledge, flowed freely: he perceived them, gratefully pressed my offered hand and continued his sad tale.

The decree of the church ordered us to remove to separate habitations, but neither forbade my seeing nor conversing with my step-mother, as she was now denominated, as often as I pleased. All hope had not yet vanished, of once more changing our destiny by a new representation; and as my persuasions and arguments alone withheld the wretched girl from adopting the most desperate measures; and my own misery found its only relief in her society, now become indispensable to my happiness, I was by her side from morning till night, yet still guiltless as ever.

Alas! a neighbour who was often with us, and who manifested real compassion for our sufferings, had the imprudence one day to say before us, that were he in my place, he would not scruple to pursue another course—that the object of the court, was merely to extort money from us, and that in his opinion, a living proof of our love, would procure a permission for our marriage, sooner than all the advocates in Germany.

Of what use would it now be to me, worthy sir, to boast of forbearance which can no longer gain me any advantage or avert my fate; but my own heart tells me that even this alluring sophistry would have failed to work its effect, had it not made a deeper impression on her mind than on mine. Her persuasions, arguments, and entreaties, once more conquered my resolution; and fondly cherishing the pleasing anticipation of future happiness, which her ardent imagination suggested, in a fatal moment, we followed his rash counsel.

Whilst inwardly convinced of the innocence and rectitude of our intentions, we indulged ourselves in a dream too blissful to be durable, she felt that she was soon likely to become a mother. With a tender embrace, her eyes raised in gratitude towards heaven, she communicated this intelligence to me; attempted not to conceal her situation from her friends; on the contrary, proclaimed every where, that I was the father—that she never would acknowledge any other for her

husband but me, and that, already, in the sight of God, she considered me as such, trusting that the event would facilitate the dearest wishes of her heart—our so long contracted union. In short, by the intentional publicity we gave to the affair, it quickly came to the knowledge of the magistracy, who once more resolved to interfere, and summoned us to appear before them. Neither of us hesitated to confess the whole; and the natural, though by us unforeseen consequence of our avowal, was a fresh investigation, immediate separation and imprisonment, which however, was, for her, mitigated to confinement to her own house. Even yet I believe, and my friend, the advocate, before-mentioned, confirmed me in my opinion, that the whole might at last have been happily brought to a conclusion, had not an unexpected event confounded all who were favourable to our cause, and plunged us in disgrace and misery.

To be brief, she, to whom confinement and separation from me were insupportable, attempting to escape, was detected, brought back, and, notwithstanding her condition, treated with inhuman severity. At this news, my former patient endurance was changed into despair and madness. Flight and her deliverance, were, from that moment, the sole and anxious objects of my thoughts; and, in the state of mind, in which I then was, I considered but how to accomplish the first, without having imagined the means, by which I could effect the second.

I contrived to make my escape unobserved, that very night: and I was already beyond the walls of my prison, ere I reflected how I could succeed in rescuing her and carrying her off with me. Whither she would flee, or how we should live, seemed at that moment, trifles, which necessity would easily and quickly teach us.

How to get to her was my only difficulty. Were I once taken, nothing could be more certain, than that I should be closer confined than before, and deprived of every future chance of escape. What was to be done for our preservation must be quickly done, as I could not assure myself that my absence would remain undiscovered another hour. Whilst a thousand plans, no sooner formed than rejected, rushed across my mind, the idea presented itself of setting fire to the house, or rather wooden hovel, in which she was confined; and, amidst the alarm and confusion this would occasion, to force my way to her, bear her through the flames, support her in our flight, whilst my strength sufficed, and to trust to circumstances for the rest. This project was no sooner conceived than executed: a neighbouring lamp afforded me fire, and the dry wooden work of the house soon burst into a flame. I was, unrecognized, among the first to give the alarm, rushed safely through the flames, and bore her, half dead with terror and surprise, beyond the city gates. But, alas, how seldom does our strength second our will! The exertions I had already made—the weight of my beloved burthen—the length of the way, and my own bodily weakness from long confinement, overcame me about a mile from the gates of the town, and I sank senseless upon the ground, exhausted by fatigue and loss of blood from a wound I had received in my neck during the fire. My unhappy partner attempted to support me, but in vain; her weakness required assistance for herself—Besides, we were already missed, our pursuers arrived, secured us, and once more dragged us back to our prisons.

I was now, as I had foreseen, and dreaded, more closely confined than before, and my death unavoidable; but even this reflection strengthened my desperate resolution, once more, to dare all hazards—to succeed or perish. My jailer belonged to that class of rough hardened wretches, in whose breast every feeling of humanity seems totally extinct. One day I surprised him asleep. Despair gave me strength; I found means to get rid of my chains, stole the key out of his pocket, and was already half out of the door, when he awoke, and sprang furiously after me. I was the younger, and, in the scuffle which ensued, proved likewise the stronger. I grappled with him, and seizing him by the throat, fastened him with so firm a grasp to the wall, as to render it impossible for him to cry out for assist-

ance. I then demanded of him to swear not to betray my escape, but instead of replying, the wretch, unperceived by me, drew a knife from his pocket, with which he attempted to stab me in the back. I, however, wrested it from him; and as I clearly perceived, that if he lived all chance of saving my own life was lost, I buried it twice in his throat, left him dying on the ground, and fled. Again I reached her I adored in safety; for she was, I well knew, on account of her dangerous state, allowed to be at liberty on bail—and once more we resolved to fly together. But the retributive arm of the avenger of blood was close behind me—we were pursued, retaken, and now within a few days, an ignominious and inevitable death awaits me. Oh, how welcome to me is its approach!—Is it possible, think you, I can regret to leave a world, which has branded my name with infamy, and heaped upon my soul an accumulated mass of the deepest and most irremediable misery?

Here the unfortunate man concluded his history, and heroically has kept his promise of patiently, yet firmly submitting to his fate. Oh! I could tell you much of his courage in the last awful hour—of his heart-rending interview with his miserable wife—of his repentance, piety, and holy confidence of pardon, but you must forgive me if I break off this long letter abruptly. This poor youth has become so dear to me, that I cannot think of him without tears; and if yours have not already fallen over his melancholy history, the blame must lie upon the unskillfulness of my description, which may have weakened the interest and compassion his unhappy fate would otherwise have excited.

A RECEIPT TO DESTROY FLIES.

These troublesome insects may be effectually destroyed without the use of poison. Take half a teaspoon full of black pepper in powder, one tea-spoon full of brown sugar and one table-spoon of cream, mix them well together, and place them in the room, on a plate where the flies are troublesome, and they will soon disappear.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1819.

In this paper we have the pleasure to insert, the first, of a series of numbers on HEDGING—a subject worthy of the deepest attention, yet very little understood or practised in Maryland. We have obtained permission to state, that these essays come from the pen of CALEB KIRK, of Delaware, and may be considered as the detail of twenty years of actual experiments. The name of the author, and the length of his experience, give ample assurance of the integrity and the value of all he says.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

SIR—When canine madness, (as it does at present,) appears in remote places, at the same time, it is epidemic, therefore, more prevalent than when sporadic, or propagated by the bite only, consequently additional precaution towards it, becomes necessary, and that alone is ample security. It is a primary disease with dog species only, as an epidemic, although generating a poison that acts on most other animals. Dogs, therefore, should be closely watched by their owners and confined, on the slightest appearance of indisposition. The first symptoms are dropping of the ears, tail and head, a dull, watery eye, drawing up in the loins, indifference to food—changed appetite and manners—then stupor and inattention, shown by running against persons and things, and finally wildness, &c.—It is pro-

bably curable in dogs, by emptying the stomach, and salt diet.—When propagated by the bite, it seems to be universally fatal, a disorganization of certain nerves, indispensable to vital functions, having been effected by the poison before its operation is discovered, neither are there any medicinal preventives against it. On no subject has human ingenuity been more extensively or eagerly exerted, from the beginning of known time, to this. But the surgical antidote, is unquestionably infallible, and may be easily applied by the clumsiest and most timid hand. The bite of a mad dog is always superficial and in safe places to cut, being on the convexity or exterior of the body, while the vessels and nerves run in the hollows of it, and may be felt thumping to the touch, cut out then the part bitten beyond the length of a dog's tooth, instantly, and if it *spouts* blood, stop it with the finger, gently pressed on the orifice, until a surgeon is called.

MEDICUS.

The Act, providing for the separation of the District of Maine, has passed both houses of the Massachusetts Legislature. In the House of Representatives, the bill was carried by 198 to 57. The town meetings in the District, are to be holden on the 26th of July, and the votes are to be returned to the proper office on or before the fourth Monday in August. The separation is to take place, provided there should be, in the whole District, a majority of 1500 votes in favour of the measure.

Present Prices of Country Produce in the Baltimore Market.

TOBACCO—has considerably improved, since our last report. Particular inquiries, authorize us in quoting Patuxent Tobacco, common quality, at 8 and 10—best, 10 a 12 Eight hogsheads of wagon Tobacco, made by H. C. HOBBS, Frederick county, very fine quality, sold on Wednesday, for 12 50—and a crop of ANDREW MERCER's, same county, averaged yesterday, about 11—Two hogsheads *James River*, good quality, sold by Messrs. PLEASANTS & SON, this week, for 17—Wheat, red, from Kent county, sold yesterday morning at 12 1-2—Corn 50 to 52—Rye 70—Oats 50—Liverpool blown Salt, retail, per bushel, 75 cents—fresh Pork 8 to 10 cts. per lb.—Chickens 25 to 37 1-2 each—Beef, best, 10 to 12—Veal, per lb. 7 to 10—do. per qr. from the wagons, 1 25 to 1 50—Mutton 6 to 8—Potatoes 87 1-2 to 1 per bushel—Eggs 25 per doz.—Hay, best Timothy, 16 per ton—Straw 15 to 16—Butter 20 to 25.

To make Ginger Beer—a very agreeable, cheap and wholesome beverage.

Take of Water 6 gallons; Brown Sugar 5 1-2 pounds; Brandy 2 quarts; Lemon Peels 1 dozen; a race of Ginger, 3 ounces—and one pint of Yest.

The Yest to be put in the keg first, and the other ingredients to be boiled all together, and suffered to stand until milk-warm; then to be poured on the Yest and left to ferment for 24 hours. Then stop the bung hole and let it settle a day or two before you bottle it off.

Patent Self Feeding Wheat Fan.

HENRY HERRING, No. 17, M'Elerry's Wharf, Baltimore, is the sole proprietor of JACOB

BROMWELL's Patent Self Feeding Wheat Fan, for the Atlantic States.

He informs farmers generally, that he has on hand, and manufactures daily, WHEAT FANS on the above plan, which he will warrant to be superior to any WHEAT FAN now in use, in the United States.

The price of the above Fan is \$45 and should any Gentleman purchase one, and not find it as represented, Mr. Herring leaves him at liberty to return it, and pledges himself to return the money paid for it.

WHEAT FAN makers, or others wishing to make Fans upon the above plan, can have the privilege, by paying \$5 for each Fan for the term of fourteen years.

The public are hereby informed, that all patent rights granted by me for using Jacob Bromwell's patent self feeding wheat fan, are issued upon an engraved plate representing the Fan.

HENRY HERRING.

Sole Proprietor for the Atlantic States.

We the undersigned, of the city of Baltimore, have seen and examined Jacob Bromwell's Patent self feeding Wheat Fan, as manufactured by HENRY HERRING, and have no hesitation in recommending it to the farmers, as the best we have ever seen, and particularly well calculated for the cleaning of large crops.

The principle of Self Feeding, being, in our opinion, the most simple, and at the same time the most efficient that can be imagined, and the least liable to get out of order.

ED. JOHNSON, Mayor. W. MC. DONALD & SON, RICHARD FRISBY, DOCT. JAMES STEWART, RICHARD CATON, ROBT. MILLS, Architect.

This Fan, as to size is precisely that of the common kind, and differs from them only in the hopper, feeder, and shoe.

The hopper being upright on the sides, and bevelling at both ends, to the centre, within about 9 inches at the bottom, in which is placed the feeder, which is a fluted or toothed roller of about 8 inches diameter, the full width of the Fan—and put in motion by a band chain, leading from the band wheel attached to the feeder, to another behind the main cog, or driving wheel of the Fan, which gives the feeding motion the same as the turning of the Fan, either fast or slow. The wheat and chaff thus passing over the feeder, in a thin, broad sheet the full width of the Fan, has to fall about a foot upon the riddle, thereby enabling the wind to act upon the smallest particles of chaff before it touches the shoe.

The shoe is made to receive the different kinds of riddles necessary to clean all kinds of grain; and to correspond with the hopper and feeder, being entirely open on the back part, and placed a foot below the feeder, in order to let the blast of the Fan operate on the chaff as it falls. The shoe being hung in straps and put in motion by an arm tumbler and spring, works very light. The screen is that of the common kind. The advantages of this Fan over those now in use, are, FIRST—That of chaffing 120 bushels of wheat an hour, (or as fast as three men can fill the hopper) which Mr. Herring warrants it to do, and to do it well, and

SECONDLY, without the disagreeable necessity (as in the common way) of feeding with the hand, which every farmer knows must be done with the common kind of Fan, when the wheat is trodden

or got out with machinery, and the chaff coarse, which is the most disagreeable part of cleaning wheat.

This Fan has also a decided advantage in the second time through, over the common kind, in the feeding, as it always exposes a broader surface of wheat to the action of the wind.

An elegant engraving representing the construction of this admirable Fan, accompanies this number of the *American Farmer*, and though not exactly the size of our sheet, will very well admit of being bound in the first volume of this work.

Garrick used to employ one Stone to pick him up low actors;—he was to find him a Bishop of Winchester, and had engaged one. Not long before the play began, he sent the following note to Garrick:—

"Sir,—The Bishop of Winchester is getting drunk at the Bear. He swears d—mn his eyes if he'll play to night. W. STONE."

Garrick's Answer.—"Stone the Bishop may go to the Devil. I don't know a greater rascal except yourself. D. GARRICK."

It was told Lord Chesterfield, that Mrs. M. a termegant and scold, was married to a gamester; on which his lordship said, "that cards and brimstone made the best matches."

Buck, the player at York, was asked how he came to turn his coat twice: he replied smartly, "that one good turn deserved another."

On Sterne's entering the coffee-room at York, a Mr. A. staring him full in the face, said, he hated a parson; upon which Sterne said "And so, sir, does my dog, for as soon as I put on my gown and cassock, he falls a barking." "Indeed," replies A "how long has he done so?" "Ever since he was a puppy, sir," answered Sterne, "and I still look upon him as one."

From late London Papers.

EXECUTION.

APRIL 28. On Wednesday last, George Warden was executed at Edinburgh, for "abstracting" money from letters in the Post Office in Aberdeen, where he was employed as a clerk.—He died very patiently; and just before he was swung off, fainted, and excited much sympathy in the immense crowd of spectators which his execution had collected together. The following is the DYING DECLARATION of this young man:—May it prove a monition to men in office—clerical as well as laymen—who are in the habit of *sponging* their dependents.

Edinburgh April 13, 1819.

"In order that the truth may hereafter be investigated, and that injustice may be prevented to the young men, clerks in the different post-offices, and that they may not be tempted by poverty, or the oppression of their superiors, to break their trust, and like me to expiate their guilt on a gallows, I deem that it may be of use, that I leave behind me on record, a declaration of the truth, as to the actual amount of my allowance from the post-office of Aberdeen, which was only 40*l.* I am by no means actuated, in this my last declaration, by any feeling of malice or revenge against the person of Mr. Dingwall; but I do so with the hope of saving others from being in any way under the necessity of committing a similar crime; because had I been paid the salary allowed by government, the

temptation in my power would not have been availed of. At the same time I return my sincere thanks to the clergymen and others, for their kindness in visiting me while under sentence: and, in justice, I cannot omit to mention the kind treatment I received from the Governor, Mr. Sibbald, in making me as comfortable as my situation would admit of. I die in peace with all men, and in the humble hope of pardon from God, for my sins and offences against the public.

GEORGE WARDEN.

"P. S. I have to contradict the printed poem that was sold through the city of Edinburgh, as it was never written by me. I also deny that I ever abstracted but 5*l.* from letters coming through the post office of Aberdeen. G WARDEN"

POETRY.

THE BUTTERFLY AND THE SNAIL.

ALL upstarts, insolent in place,
Remind us of their vulgar race.

As in the sunshine of the morn
A Butterfly (but newly born)
Sat proudly perching on a rose,
With pert conceit his bosom glows;
His wings (all glorious to behold)
Bedropt with azure, jet, and gold,
Wide he displays; the spangled dew
Reflects his eyes and various hue.

His now forgotten friend, a Snail,
Beneath his house, with slimy trail
Crawls o'er the grass, whom when he spies,
In wrath he to the gard'ner cries.

"What means yon peasant's daily toil,
From choking weeds to rid the soil?
Why wake you to the morning's care?
Why with new arts correct the year?
Why grows the peach with crimson hue?
And why the plum's inviting blue?
Were they to feast his face design'd,
That vermin of voracious kind?
Crush the slow, the pilfering race,
So purge thy garden from disgrace."

"What arrogance! (the Snail replied)
How insolent is upstart pride!
Hadst thou not thus, with insult vain,
Provok'd my patience to complain,
I had conceal'd thy meaner birth,
Nor trac'd thee to the scum of earth;
For scarce nine suns have wak'd the hours,
To swell the fruit and paint the flowers,
Since I thy humbler life survey'd,
In base, in sordid guise array'd;
A hideous insect, vile, unclean,
You dragg'd a slow and noisome train:
And from your spider-bowels drew
Foul film, and spun the dirty clue.
I own my humble life, good friend;
Snail was I born, and Snail shall end.
And, what's a Butterfly? at best,
He's but a caterpillar drest;
And all thy race (a numerous seed)
Shall prove of caterpillar breed."

A FRAGMENT.

***** In the sheltering grave the wo-fraught heart will be at ease: the clouds of anguish which darken life's short day pervade not that still retreat. The poisonous breath of calumny and the envenomed tongue of envy, here lose their corroding influence. The sympathetic mind agonized by distress, unable to support the storm of ill-fortune, sinks calmly into the embrace of death, into the placid enjoyments of uninterrupted tranquillity. Oppressed virtue finds a secure asylum for overbearing greatness; and the upbraiding charity of proud opulence is no longer painful to its object. The distinctions in society, which consign merit to oblivion and raise the worthless from the dust, are here forgotten. Unfeeling pride is disrobed of its splendid covering, and the gorgeous mantle is torn from the shoulders of the undeserving. Humble worth ceases to kneel

suppliant at the feet of affluence, the lorn offspring of poverty fails to entreat from avarice the stunted boon. The victim of malevolence, who essays in vain, to parry the thrusts of unmerited obloquy, glad that in death the dagger of contumely wounds not, welcomes with joyous aspect the closing period.

THE IRISHMAN.

From the Gleaner.

Mr. Editor,

The Irish are proverbially hospitable. Travellers, orators, essayists, poets, all are liberal in their encomiums upon Irish hospitality. I beg leave to relate a little incident which occurred in the United States, from which it will appear that Patrick O'Flaherty took a very strange method of showing this characteristic virtue of his countrymen. During the late war, a poor and miserable soldier, having received an honourable discharge from the American army, was returning home to New York; naked, pennyless, and crippled by a musket ball, which he received at Fort Erie, under the gallant Gen. Gaines. It was night when he reached the snug and comfortable mansion of Patrick O'Flaherty. The poor fellow, exhausted with fatigue and hunger, knocked at Patrick's door, and begged quarters for the night, when the following conversation ensued between them:

Patrick. And who in the devil are you now?
Soldier. My name is John Wilson.
Pat. And where the devil are you going from John Wilson?
Sol. From the American army at Erie, Sir.
Pat. And what in the devil do you want here?
Sol. I want shelter to-night—will you permit me to spread my blanket on your floor and sleep to-night?
Pat. Devil take me if I do John Wilson—that's flat.
Sol. On your kitchen floor, Sir?
Pat. Not I, by the Hill of Hoath—that's flat.
Sol. In your stable then?
Pat. I am d—n'd if I do that either—that's flat.
Sol. I am dying with hunger—give me but a bone and a crust; I ask no more.
Pat. The devil blow me if I do, sir—that's flat.
Sol. Give me some water to quench my thirst, I beg of you.
Pat. Beg and be hanged, I'll do no such thing—that's flat.

Sol. Sir, I have been fighting to secure the blessings you enjoy: I have assisted in contributing to the glory and welfare of the country, which has hospitably received you, and can you so inhospitably reject me from your house?

Pat. Reject you! and who in the devil talked a word at all at all about rejecting you? May be, I am not the scurvy spalpeen you take me to be, John Wilson. You asked me to let you lie on the floor—my kitchen floor! or in my stable! Now, by the powers, d'ye think I'd let a perfect stranger do that, when I have half a dozen soft feather beds, all empty! No, by the Hill o'Hoath, John—that's flat. In the second place, you told me you were dying with hunger, and wanted a bone and a crust to eat—now, honey, d'ye think I'd feed a hungry man on bones and crusts, when my yard is full of fat pullets and turkeys, and pigs? No, by the powers, not I—that's flat. In the third place, you asked me for some simple water to quench your thirst—now, as my water is none of the best, I never give it to a poor traveller without mixing it with a plenty of wine, brandy, whiskey, or something else, wholesome and cooling. Come into my house, my honey; devil blow me, but you shall sleep in the best feather bed I have; you shall have the best supper and breakfast that my farm can supply, which, thank the Lord, is none of the worst—you shall drink as much water as you choose, provided you mix it with plenty of good wine, or spirits, and provided also, you prefer it. Come in my hearty—come in, and feel yourself at home—it shall never be said, that Patrick O'Flaherty treated a man scurvily who has been fighting for the dear country which gave him protection—that's flat.